

Appl. No. 10/004,131

Amdt. sent October 9, 2006

Response to Notice of Allowance August 29, 2006

PATENTREMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6, 8, 11-13,15, and 17 are pending.

In a telephone conversation with the examiner held on August 3, 2006, counsel authorized the amendment set forth in the Notice of Allowance mailed August 29, 2006. However, counsel had not consulted with Applicant and later learned that Applicant desired additional language to more clearly point out the invention.

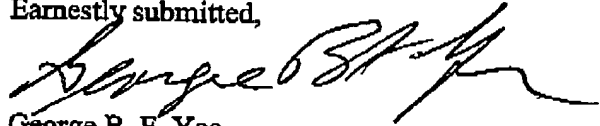
Claim 6 was amended by examiner's amendment to include the word "directly" on line 11, after the word "to."

In a rule 312 amendment, Applicants proposed to append clarifying language to claim 6 in order to more clearly point out that the second connection unit provides a direct connection between any of the file servers and any of the disk drive units that is absent any of the disk controllers.

In the instant supplemental amendment under rule 312, Applicants further propose to cancel the word "directly." This additional amendment is consistent with and follows from the language added in the previous rule 312 amendment. The proposed additional language therefore does not change the scope of the claims, requires no substantial amount of work on the part of the Office, and does not touch the merits.

Consideration and entry of this additional amendment is respectfully requested.

Earnestly submitted,



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